

II. Remarks

Responsive to the outstanding Examiner's Action, the applicant has carefully studied the Examiner's comments. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following detailed discussion.

Claims 12-30 are pending in the application. Claims 27-30 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 12-26 are rejected. A listing of the pending claims, along with a status indicator of each claim, does not appear above since no amendments to any claim are being made herewith.

Claims 12-21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaneko et al (U.S. 6,383,678). The 102(b) rejection on page 2 of the Office Action did not explicitly address the claim limitation in claim 12 stating "said coating is disposed only on said contact surface of said active area."

The undersigned interviewed the Examiner on August 12, 2010 to discuss this limitation. The Examiner agreed that the reference failed to teach this limitation and advised the undersigned that a response to the Office Action merely needed to point out this fact in order to overcome the rejection since the Examiner was in agreement on this point.

According to the MPEP, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." See MPEP 2131 (quoting Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (CAFC 1987)) (emphasis added).

In view of the fact that Examiner has agreed that the Kaneko reference failed to teach each and every claim limitation as set forth in independent claim 12, applicant

respectfully requests that the 102(b) rejection be removed.

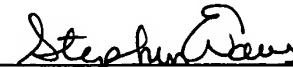
In light of the above discussion claim 12 of the present invention is patentable. Furthermore, claims 13-26 each depend on claim 12, either directly or indirectly, and contain all of the limitations thereof. Therefore, because claim 12 is patentable and claims 13-26 each depend on claim 12, claims 13-26 are patentable over the cited reference.

No fees are believed due with this response. In the event that fees are due, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 13-1816. Kindly credit any overpayment to the same account. In either case, please associate D030001-17860001 with any credit or debit of the Deposit Account.

In light of the remarks above, it is believed the claims are now in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to modify any of the language of the claims, applicant's attorney suggests a telephone interview in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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